(d) Ministry of Home Affairs has already directed CISF to make payment of cash compensation for working on holidays as per laid down guidelines to the personnel of 8th Reserve Battalion in the current financial year itself.

ISI conspiracy to use newspapers for its nefarious activities

†1717. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pakistani intelligence agency ISI has now conspired to use newspapers to spread its roots in India;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that as reported by IB, the intelligence agency of Government of India, that ISI is now trying to invest money in a clandestine manner in some big vernacular newspapers of Northern India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHENNAMANENI VIDYA SAGAR RAO): (a) to (c) Available inputs do not confirm use of newspapers by ISI for futherance of its activities in the country.

Action against those favouring Osama Bin Laden

1718. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Muslim organisations and clerics in India have raised their voice in favour of Osama Bin Laden after US attack on Afghanistan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to counter them; and what political and social steps have been taken to bring them in line with the Government stand to support American efforts to root out terrorism from the globe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I. D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) As per available information some Muslim leaders and organisations have raised their voice in favour of Osama Bin Laden and condemned the US-led air-strikes in Afghanistan and expressed the anguish of the Muslim community over these developments. At the same time some eminent moderate Muslim opinion leaders have supported the efforts to root out terrorism in the name of *jehad*, or other issue.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.